किया गया । यह निगम निम्नोक्त तरीकों से हथकरघा उद्योग की मदद करता है :—

(i) राज्य स्तरीय हथकरघा एजेंसियों के जरिए हथकरघा बुनकरों के लिए यार्न, रंजक तथा रसायन जैसे अन्तर्निविष्टि साधनों की अभिप्राप्ति तथा उनका वितरण करके ।

(ii) हथकरघों के संवर्धन तथा विपणन में मदद करके ।

(iii) अन्य विकासात्मक कार्यकलापों जैसे कि प्रदर्शनियों में भागीदारी तथा क्वालिटी नियंत्रण विपणन आदि पर सेमिनारों का आयोजन करके ।

(iv) संचार अभियानों के जरिए बुनकरों को जानकारी का प्रसार करके ।

(ख) इस निगम को 1983 में ही नियमित किया गया, और तब इसके द्वारा बुनकर समुदाय से संबंधित छः व्यक्तियों को रोजगार दिया गया है ।

Problems of Cigarettee-Tobacco Growers

1068. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation called on him on the 9th April, 1987 and submitted to him a memorandum in regard to the crisis being faced by the cigarette-tobacco growers in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what are the details of their demand and what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) Several delegations of tobacco growers have met Commerce Minister during the recent past regarding lesser purchases of tobacco at the auction platforms in Andhra Pradesh this year compared to last year. The demands included larger purchases of tobacco at remunerative prices, upward revision of Minimum Support Prices, boosting of exports etc. Ministry of Commerce and the Tobacco Board have taken a series of measures to assist the farmers. The steps taken *inter-alia* are:—

(1) USSR has been requested to purchase larger quantity of tobacco.

(2) The Bulgarian Monopoly has been requested to buy larger quantity of tobacco.

(3) Discussions have been held with the Checoslovakian and Chinese delegations, which visited India recently. They have been requested to step up their purchases.

(4) The Tobacco Board has explored the potential markets for tobacco in Egypt and Algeria. Delegations are being sent shortly to these countries. The Tobacco Board would also explore new markets in Spain, Portugal, France and Sweden for Indian tobacco.

(5) State Trading Corporation of India has started commercial purchase of tobacco at auction platforms.

(6) The Tobacco Board has entered the auctions, where there are no bidders, for purchase of tobacco at the Minimum Support Prices.

(7) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has been requested to instruct the State agencies to intensify buying tobacco and provide support to the growers.

(8) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has also been requested to consider providing inputs like coal and fertilizers to farmers on soft terms.

(9) The Tobacco Board has refixed the price differential of Minimum Support Prices for grades other than the basic grades of F2 and L2.

(10) The cigarette manufacturers have been requested to activate their purcases of tobacco.

Organisation of "India promotion" to Boost Exports to the United States

1069. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether "India Promotion" is being organised to boost up export of Indian merchandise to the United States;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the details of agreement made with the foreign company/companies to effect increase in exports of India merchandise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A special publicity Programme has been launched through the Trade Development Authority. For this, they have engaged the services of a leading advertising agency namely Lintas, who have public relations affiliate in USA.

The publicity campaign envisages:

(1) advertisement in trade journals,

(2) direct mail campaign,

(3) audio-visual communication in the form of video tapes, and

(4) editorial coverage in trade journals and other publications through public relations programmes.

Expansion Plans of Delhi Fire Service

1070. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI T. R. BALU:
SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total strength of Capital's Fire Service, categorywise;

(b) how many Fire Stations are there in the Capital at present;

(c) what are the details of the modernfire fighting equipments with the Delhi Fire Service at present;

(d) what are the future expansion plans of the Delhi Fire Service; and

(e) how much fund was allotted and also spent by the Delhi Fire Service during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The total strength of the Fire Service in the capital is as under:

Sl. No.	Rank	No. of posts
1	Chief Fire Officer	1
2	Dy. Chief Fire Officer	2
3	Divisional Officer	3
4	Assistant Divisional Officer	7
5	Station Officer	23
6	Sub-Officer	37
7	Station Officer (Band)	1